

Students 2008 Biographies (in alphabetical order)



Alec Avedissian, Bulgarian baritone, obtained his Masters Degree in 2007 at the National Music Academy. He made his debut in the role of Dr. Malatesta *Don Pasquale* in 2006 in his hometown Opera National Theater. His international engagements include a concert in Musikverein-Bosendorfer Saal, Schubert Lieder and aria concerts in Bratislava, Budapest, and Moscow. His repertoire also includes Belcore *L'Elisir d'Amore*, Papageno *Die Zauberflöte*, Guglielmo *Così fan tutte*, Onegin *Eugene Onegin*, Zurga *Les Pecheurs de Perles*, and Germont *La traviata*. He sang in the 2007-08 season of the CNIPAL, Paris. In October 2007 he sang with the l'Orchestre Régional de Cannes-PACA, in the Théâtre Molière de Marignane and Théâtre Croisette à Cannes, and in May 2008 at the Operas Marseille, Toulon, Avignon. Alec was a finalist at the 2006 International Singing Competition in Toulouse and a finalist at the International Opera Competition Marseille 2007. Future engagements include Schaubard *La Bohème*, and the Opera St. Etienne season 2009-2010.



New Zealand mezzo-soprano **Kristen Darragh** is on her second year with Royal Academy Opera, where she is a Karaviotis Scholar. Kristen was an Emerging Artist with The NBR New Zealand Opera, where she made her debut as Fyodor *Boris Godunov*, and has returned as Giovanna *Rigoletto*, and Siebel *Faust*. Kristen's UK operatic experience includes Florence Pike *Albert Herring* for British Youth Opera; The Musico *Manon Lescaut* for Opera Holland Park; Baba the Turk for Dartington and Third Lady *The Magic Flute* for Opera del Mar. Roles for RAO include Cherubino *Le Nozze di Figaro*; Zita *Gianni Schicchi* and Lucretia *The Rape of Lucretia*. Opera scenes include Orlofsky *Die Fledermaus*, Erika *Vanessa*, Nancy *Albert Herring* and Cesare *Giulio Cesare*. Her concert repertoire includes Handel's *Messiah*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Beethoven's *Mass in C*, Saint-Saens' *Requiem*, Vivaldi's *Gloria* and The Mozart *Requiem*. Upcoming includes Zita for Opera Fringe Northern Ireland and Stewardess in *Flight* for British Youth Opera.



Adriana Festeu, Romanian soprano, began her musical education at the age of six, at the Arts Lyceum in Brasov. She took her undergraduate course of singing at the Gheorghe Dima Music Academy in Cluj, and she is now a postgraduate of the Opera Course at the Royal Academy of Music. At the Academy, she studies with Ryland Davies, Timothy Evans-Jones and Mary Hill. Operatic experience includes Marcellina *Nozze di Figaro* for the Romanian National Opera in Cluj, Zerlina *Don Giovanni*, Fidalma *Il Matrimonio Segreto*, Madame Nolan *The Medium* and Candida *Emilia di Liverpool*, for the European Opera Center. Recent performances include the role of Endimion in *La Calisto* by Francesco Cavalli for the Royal Academy Opera.



Georgia Ginsberg, British soprano, studied Japanese and History of Art at Cambridge, continuing to Trinity College of Music where, a Gold Medal finalist, she won the Edgar Comley and David Neumann awards. She is currently studying at the Royal Academy of Music. Operatic roles include Donna Elvira (British Youth Opera cover), Despina, Cleopatra *Giulio Cesare*, Proserpina *L'Orfeo*, Drusilla *L'Incoronazione di Poppea*, Frasquita *Carmen*, Josephine *HMS Pinafore* and Phyllis *Iolanthe*. Georgia has also performed in recitals for the Southbank Centre and Kensington Palace, in numerous oratorios and recorded David Gaukroger's *Romany Wood* with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Future engagements include *The Governess* in Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* and Orff's *Carmina Burana* (UK and France).



Alexander Grove, British tenor, is a graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester and also trained as a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral, London. He is the recipient of the Anne Ziegler Award, the Alfred Alexander Award, Peter Moores Foundation, Mario Lanza Foundation and MBF Major Scholarships. 2007-2008 engagements include *The Nose*, Pytor and Yarishkin *The Nose* (The Opera Group), Ramiro *La Cenerentola* (Stanley Hall Opera), Fenton *Die lustigen Weiber von Windsor*, Count Zedlau *Wiener Blut* and Alfred *Die Fledermaus*, Pedrillo *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, and Danilo *Die lustige Witwe* (Scottish Opera). He received international acclaim for his interpretation of Gabriele in Foroni's *Christina Regina di Svezia* for Vadstena Akademien (Swedish debut) with live European broadcasts on Sveriges and BBC Radio. Notable recitals include a private performance for President Bush Senior at the White House, performing with Jose Carreras under Sir George Solti at the RFH, London. For more information please visit www.alexandergrove.com



Stuart Haycock, Australian tenor, holds a Bachelor of Performing Arts from the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts and a Graduate Diploma of Opera from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. He currently studies opera at the Royal Academy of Music. His operatic repertoire includes the title role in *Candide*, Fileno in *La Fedeltà Premiata*, Prince Phillippe and Errand Boy *A Dinner Engagement*, Little Bat Mclean and Elder Gleaton *Susannah*, Sam Kaplan *Street Scene*, Bill *A Hand of Bridge*, and roles in *L'Incoronazione di Poppea*, *L'Orfeo*, and *Dido and Aeneas*. Stuart's concert repertoire includes Carissimi, Handel, Charpentier, Mozart, Haydn, Bach, Ramirez, Dvorak, Purcell, Bruckner, and Mendelssohn. Stuart has been an ensemble member with West Australian Opera, performing comprimario roles in *The Merry Widow* and *Nostradamus*; and has also been a full-time chorister with Opera Australia in Sydney. His studies at the Royal Academy Opera are supported by the Ian Potter Cultural Trust, Opera and Arts Support Group Sydney, the Opus 50 Trust, Ars Musica Australis, Opera Australia and the Joan Sutherland Society of Sydney.



American baritone **Nathan Herfindahl** is in his first season with the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program at Washington National Opera (WNO). This past season Nathan made his WNO debut as Schaunard *La Bohème* followed by performances as Masetto *Don Giovanni*, and the Father *Hansel and Gretel*. Nathan recently made his European debut singing Masetto *Don Giovanni* with Opera de Monte Carlo. Nathan's many past engagements have included turns as Rigoletto *Rigoletto*, Marcello *La Bohème*, Guglielmo *Così fan tutte*, Prince Yamadori *Madama Butterfly*, and Gianni Schicchi *Gianni Schicchi*. Upcoming engagements include: The Captain *Eugene Onegin* (NSO), Baron Douphol *La Traviata*, for the Duluth Festival Opera, Baron Douphol *La Traviata*, WNO, Germont *La Traviata*, WNO Young Artist Production, and Ping *Turandot*, WNO.



After reading Modern Languages in Edinburgh and Vienna, British baritone **Rhys Jenkins** trained at the RNCM and the RSAMD. He is a member of the Britten-Pears Young Artist's Programme and a National Eisteddfod prize-winner. Roles include Title Role, *Gianni Schicchi*, Sid Albert *Herring*, Figaro *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Peter *Hänsel und Gretel*, Dandini *La Cenerentola*, Tonio *I Pagliacci*, Schaunard *La Bohème*, Scarpia *Tosca* (cover), The Sorceress *Dido and Aeneas*, Le Gendarme *Les Mamelles de Tiresias* and Pistol *Falstaff*. Recent concerts include Brahms' *Requiem*, Dvořák *Mass in D*, Handel's *Messiah & Israel in Egypt*, Stanford *Songs of the Sea*, Elgar's *Coronation Ode*, Mozart's *Mass in C* and Berlioz' *Messe Solennelle* and an Aldeburgh Festival Recital (Duparc and Mussorgsky's *Songs and Dances of Death*).



Nona Krastnikova is a Bulgarian soprano. After completing her master and bachelor degree, she is going to finalize her doctorate in opera singing, at the National Music Academy of Sofia, Bulgaria, in December 2008. Her stage performances include tours with “Teatro lirico d’Europa” in the United States, Denmark, and Italy, singing Giulia *La scala di seta*, concerts with the Academic orchestra of National Music Academy of Sofia, *Die zweite Dame Die Zauberfloete* at the National Music Theater of Sofia. Her repertoire also includes Tatyana, *Evgeny Onegin*, *Suor Angelica* Puccini and Mimi *La Bohème*.



Swedish soprano **Nina Lejderman** was awarded an entrance scholarship at the Royal Academy of Music where she is currently studying at Postgraduate level. She was recently awarded the Nan Copeland Award and the Warne Scholarship. At the end of her first year at the RAM, she was awarded the Arthur Burcher singing prize and was invited to represent the Academy in the Junior Kathleen Ferrier singing competition. Nina has been a soloist with the Stockholm Youth Symphony Orchestra and has given solo recitals and oratorio performances around England and Sweden. She has sung with Opera de Bauge in productions of *The Pearl Fishers* and *Martha*, the role of the ‘Boy Soprano’ in Händel’s *L’allegro* at the Spitalfields Festival in London in 2006. Her Opera roles include Zerlina *Don Giovanni*, Susanna *Le nozze di Figaro*, Adele *Die Fledermaus*, Echo *Ariadne auf Naxos* and Fortuna *L’incoronazione di Poppea*. Nina is supported by the Josephine Baker Trust.



Narine Ojakhyan, Armenian soprano, was awarded a Raffy Manoukyan scholarship to attend the Royal Academy of Music of London in 2005 and after one year she joined the Royal Academy Opera Program 2006-2008. Her operatic roles for the Royal Academy Opera include Susanna *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Nella *Gianni Schicchi*, Lusya *Paradise Moscow*, Brigitta *Iolanta*, Lucia *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Rosina *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. In Armenia she completed her vocal studies and a year’s PGDip program at the Yerevan State Conservatoire studying with Marianna Harutyunyan. During her studies she received several awards: Sayan, K. Orbelyan and was a winner of the “Avetik Isahakyan” Armenian National Vocal Competition 2000. Narine has been a soloist at the Opera Studio of Yerevan State Conservatoire, and sang with the Armenian “Tagharan” Ancient Music Ensemble and Armenian Radio & Television Chamber Choir.



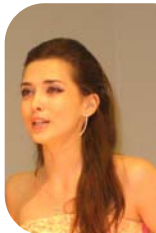
British soprano **Elizabeth Powell** studied at the Royal Academy of Music and is the recipient of the Eva Turner Scholarship for sopranos with dramatic potential. For the Opéra de Bauge, she has sung Euridice *Orfeo ed Euridice*, Michaëla *Carmen*, Kitty Bell *Martha*. For the RAM, she has appeared as Blanche *Les Dialogues des Carmélites*, Fox *The Cunning Little Vixen*, Nero *L’incoronazione di Poppea*, Héro *Béatrice et Bénédicte*, Eudoxie *La Juive*. On the concert platform, she has sung Gounod, Handel for Buckingham Choral Society, Schubert for the East London Chorus, and the Thurrock Choral Society, a Light Summer Concert with Scunthorpe Choral Society. Current season/future plans: Elijah for Penzance Choral Society, Mrs. Grose *The Turn of the Screw* for the Little Opera Company.



Amy Radford, Australian Soprano, completed a Diploma of Opera at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music in 2006, and has recently completed her first year of the Royal Academy of Music Opera in London. Amy has performed the roles of the Second Lady *The Magic Flute*, Diana *La Fedeltà Premiata*, Clarice *Il Mondo della Luna* and First Bridesmaid & La Contessa *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Amy made her concert debut at the Sydney Opera House in August 2007, and in October 2007, performed as a concert soloist at Australia House, London. In June 2007 she received third place in the national Dame Joan Sutherland Award, and in January 2008 she was a finalist in the Richard Lewis Competition at the Royal Academy of Music. Amy was also the 2007 recipient of the Royal Academy of Music Australian Music Foundation Scholarship.



British mezzo-soprano **Charlotte Stephenson** is currently studying at the Royal Academy of Music on the Opera Course. She gained a First Class Honours Degree in vocal and opera studies at the Royal Northern College of Music. Her opera engagements include Stella for the 2005 premier of *The Airman's Tale* by Gerald McBuney at the Imperial War Museum London, *The Devil The Soldiers' Tale* at The Bridgewater Hall and Gertrude *Romeo and Juliette* for British Youth Opera's, as well as Emily in the European première of *Bandanna* at Peel Hall. Charlotte is in increasing demand on the concert platform and has performed at venues such as Cadogan Hall, St Martin's in the Field, Christchurch Spitalfields, and Southwark and Blackburn Cathedral. She has worked with The Manchester Camerata and the Royal Academy's Concert Orchestra. For the Royal Academy's Opera, Charlotte has covered the role of Cherubino *The Marriage of Figaro*, Vava *Cheroymuski* and, most recently, *Diana La Calisto*. Future engagements include Minsk Woman *Flight* for the British Youth Opera. Charlotte is supported by the Musicians Benevolent Fund, The Josephine Baker Trust and John Lewis.



Turmenian soprano **Eleonora Vindau** entered the vocal department of the National Tchaikovsky Academy of Music in Kiev, Ukraine, in 2003. In 2004 she was admitted into the vocal department of the Kiev Conservatory. In July 2007 Eleonora attended the Mariinsky Summer Academy in Mikkeli, Finland and was coached by Vladimir Atlantov and Elena Obraztsova. She was subsequently invited to join the Academy of the Mariinsky Theatre. Her repertoire includes Tatyana *Eugene Onegin*, Zemfira *Aleko*, Countess Almaviva *Le nozze di Figaro*, Flora *La traviata*, Oksana *Zaporozhets za Dunaem*, and The Doll *The Brave Lead Soldier*.